

# ANACONDA TIMES

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## Sovereignty to bring changes

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

The change in sovereignty for the Iraqi people came two days early as a new government led by Prime Minister Dr. Iyad Allawi and President Sheikh Ghazi al-Yawar assumed power from Coalition Provisional Authority and begin governing themselves June 28.

For the people of Iraq, this is the biggest step on the road to freedom; for Soldiers, this means responsibilities remain the same.

Soldiers need to keep their guard up and continue with the force protection measures they have been using, as the mission of the Coalition Forces changes to supporting the interim Iraqi government.

"Iraq has been through years of fear and intimidation," Col. Darrell L. Roll, deputy commanding officer for 13th Corps Support Command, said. "As they felt the pain of being in a regime that threatened their lives, they will have to learn the importance of taking responsibility for their own lives, building faith and confidence in the people around them, they can trust that their lives and freedoms won't be taken for granted or taken away."

The mission of the Coalition Forces is to guarantee this opportunity is present for the nation.

"I think our commitment to freedom often drives us to see other countries gain an appreciation for freedom, to not be under an oppressive government. This country can take on its new free environment," Roll said.

As the new government takes over, there are expected to be some rough times.

"The Iraqi people are ready to move forward. I expect to see some growing pains, but it's like that for people new to democracy," said Lt. Col. Chuck Prichard, of the 13th COSCOM Civil Affairs staff.

Coalition Forces will continue to help the Iraqi government create a stable and secure environment and eliminate foreign terrorist influence.

People stationed at LSA Anaconda should not notice a change as a result of the transfer of sovereignty.

"Our purpose here is to provide support to the Coalition Forces and we're here to support the stand up of the Iraqi National Guard and the forces that will eventually be there to support the Iraqi government. Indirectly, through the [Iraqi National Guard], we're providing support to the Iraqi government," Roll said.

Since logistical support is the primary mission here, any changes that take place in the government will not affect the day-to-day activities of those at LSA Anaconda.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cohen Young

**Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, hands the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing guidon to Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Blair Hansen, the new wing commander, during a change of command ceremony Wednesday.**

## 332nd AEW gets new commander

Staff Sgt. Jason Lake  
332nd AEW/WA

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing welcomed the second wing commander of the unit's history at LSA Anaconda during a change of command ceremony Wednesday.

Shortly after noon, Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Blair Hansen assumed command of the 332nd AEW from Brig. Gen. Marke Gibson.

Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, presided over the ceremony.

As the ceremony began, Buchanan explained the significance of the ceremony.

"Today, with our coalition partners, we are locked in a noble struggle to bring freedom to an oppressed people," Buchanan said. "As we see the effort to its successful conclusion, air power is being called on in new and unique ways, and Balad is vital to our efforts."

The general went on to explain how much Balad has progressed since Gibson first set foot here more than nine months ago.

"Under his leadership, A-10s and F-16s successfully carried out more than 2,000 combat missions, providing life saving close air support for ground troops under fire."

Before passing the wing's guidon over to

Hansen, Gibson gave some parting words to his troops.

"Although I planned a long and eloquent speech for you today, I came to my senses and realized there were only two things I really needed to say - thank you and I'm proud of you," he said. "To my brothers in arms a very special thank you... your friendship, cooperation and professionalism continues to humble me."

The general added: "(This) leads me to my last and most important point - how proud I am of each and every one of you and what a distinct honor it has been to serve alongside this distinguished group of warriors."

After taking the guidon from Buchanan, Hansen accepted command of the 332nd AEW and spoke to his new unit.

"This is a tough business out here," he said as he glanced over some of his new troops out in the audience. "Many times the days are long and the conditions are harsh, yet it always impresses me how people always end up coming back."

He also said he hopes to further improve the joint relationship at Balad during his one-year tour.

Hansen was formerly the commander of the 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. He is a command pilot with more than 3,300 flying hours in fighter aircraft, including over 100 combat missions.



## Iraqi delegation visits, applauds military efforts

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake  
332nd AEW/PA

"Your mission was worth it," Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshiyar Zebari said of the U.S. military's effort in Iraq. "We're very proud of your sacrifices and deeply appreciate what you have done."

Minister Zebari and members of the Iraqi Governing Council, including Iraqi Defense Minister Hazim al-Shaalan, briefly visited LSA Anaconda before continuing on to Istanbul, Turkey, to speak at the NATO summit.

"Today, as we flew here we saw satellite dishes mounted on people's rooftops," said Minister Zebari, an Iraqi-Kurd who fought in numerous rebellions against the former regime. "One and a half years ago people would have gotten sentenced to death for having something like that. This is a new era for [Iraqis]."

Minister Zebari explained that since Operation Iraqi Freedom kicked off last spring, Iraqis have experienced great leaps in personal freedoms – including freedom of the press, freedom of religion, satellite television, unrestricted Internet access and other privileges of a democratic society.

"Another great change has been the rise in salaries for civil servants, teachers and other government jobs," he said. "Some salaries have gone up 100 times higher in some sectors."

Minister Zebari said that the end result of pay raises has been the steady improvement in the quality of life for Iraqis.

"People are out buying all kinds of gadgets," he said. "Before, (Operation Iraqi Freedom) this would have been impossible. Most people never dreamed of this kind of freedom before."

The challenges faced days before the transfer of sovereignty is the price of freedom.

"Every era of change has its complications. But I believe it's just a matter of time before the security situation improves," Zebari said.

Defense Minister al-Shaalan planned to address some security concerns while attending the NATO summit. The defense minister also urged U.S. service members to not let negative media reports or poll results dissolve their resolve for accomplishing the mission.

"The media can be unfair at times," he said. "We think (Operation Iraqi Freedom) was the right decision. History will show that your actions were right."

# Local truck drivers hit road

## Iraqi drivers are tested for safety and driving skills

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

The day finally came for the local nationals, who had been trained by instructors from the 660th Transportation Company, to drive in an actual military convoy.

After 60 hours of training behind the wheels of 5-ton trucks, 25 Iraqi drivers were applying their knowledge as they hauled vital supplies to a local forward operating base.

Although the trip went well, there were still slight discrepancies with the local national drivers, said 1st Lt. Gregory Howard Jr.

"Interval is the only problem that we're having," Howard said.

After having noticed slight problems, or things not completely covered in the training, the instructors noted the deficiencies for correction in future classes. They instructed the new trucker drivers on the use of correct hand signals and eventually other forms of communication will be incorporated into their convoys.

"We're still working with them as far as hand and arm signals. We're going to try to squeeze that into the program. It's working out pretty good. They know the overall performance of the truck," said instructor Staff Sgt. Herman J. Porterie.

Overall, the problems they encountered were minor and easily correctable.

"So far [the training] has proven to be effective," Staff Sgt. William J. Miles, head instructor, said. "No major problems. The problems we have identified are in the nature of familiarization and them not going out on military convoys."

With the return of the country to a new Iraqi government, the roads will also be back in the hands of the Iraqi people.

"I think eventually at one point in time these guys are going to replace us as far as convoy operations out here," Howard said. "It may not be necessarily military vehicles, it may be civilian vehicles, but they're going to learn the routes and convoy operations."

The learning process of the Iraqi drivers on the road is carefully observed.

Staff Sgt. Herman J. Porterie monitored the drivers operating procedures from the rear of the convoy and said that it went well and the local nationals functioned just as they were taught, comparing their handling of the vehicles to that of trained Soldiers.

"Besides [performing] the normal duties of truck driving, I'd put [the Iraqi drivers] up there with our Soldiers. They catch on real fast," Porterie said. "I feel the training has been effective."

Through proper training and continued observation by the instructors, the Iraqi drivers are a cog in the larger mechanism of being one step closer to bringing the Iraqi people closer to a self-sufficient nation.



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

The first group of Iraqi truck drivers receive their morning brief before venturing onto the road.

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Contact Sgt. Annette B. Andrews via e-mail at [annette.andrews@us.army.mil](mailto:annette.andrews@us.army.mil)

**13th COSCOM Commanding General**  
Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers

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Sgt. Ann Venturato

**Staff Writers**  
Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
Pfc. Abel Trevino



# Sovereignty here, attacks increase

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces  
Press Service

As the transition of Iraqi sovereignty to the interim government approached, the number and severity of attacks increased, Defense Department officials said at a Pentagon press conference.

*The insurgents have been explicit in their objectives to derail Iraq's transition to self-government.*

"As we anticipated, ... attacks and threats against those working to establish a free Iraq are increasing as the extremists extend their efforts to create instability," said Army Brig. Gen. David Rodriguez, a Joint Staff spokesman.

There have been several attacks against Coalition Forces and Iraqi security forces, and numerous explosions targeting Iraqi security force facilities. Estimates put the dead at 100 and wounded at more than 300 as of June 26.

The U.S. Air Force has struck targets in Iraq. In Fallujah, F-16s dropped bombs on a safe house used by fugitive terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's network. Rodriguez said there was a tremendous amount of ammunition in the house. After the bomb hit, secondary explosions continued for 45 minutes.

"We're confident we hit what

intelligence said was there," he said.

Ten precision-guided bombs were dropped on targets just east of Fallujah. Coalition forces had come under fire and called for air support. Near Baqubah, aircraft supported ground personnel. Anti-Coalition Forces were firing on Iraqi police. A quick-reaction force arrived and also took fire. The QRF called for support, and F-16 Fighting Falcon and AV-8 Harrier jets responded.

Insurgents launched strikes in Mosul, Baqubah, Ramadi, Fallujah and Baghdad. In Mosul, car bombs rocked three police stations. In Ramadi, a heavily armed group attacked the police station. The attackers got away before the quick-reaction force could arrive.

Pentagon spokesman Larry DiRita said the insurgency will continue after the turnover, but no one can estimate the level of it. He said the insurgents may target the elections now set for the end of the year.

"The insurgents have been explicit in their objectives," DiRita said. "Their objectives are to derail Iraq's transition to self-government. We've seen threats against the new Iraqi government leaders including the prime minister (Ayad Allawi) himself. That's what we're going to have to expect."

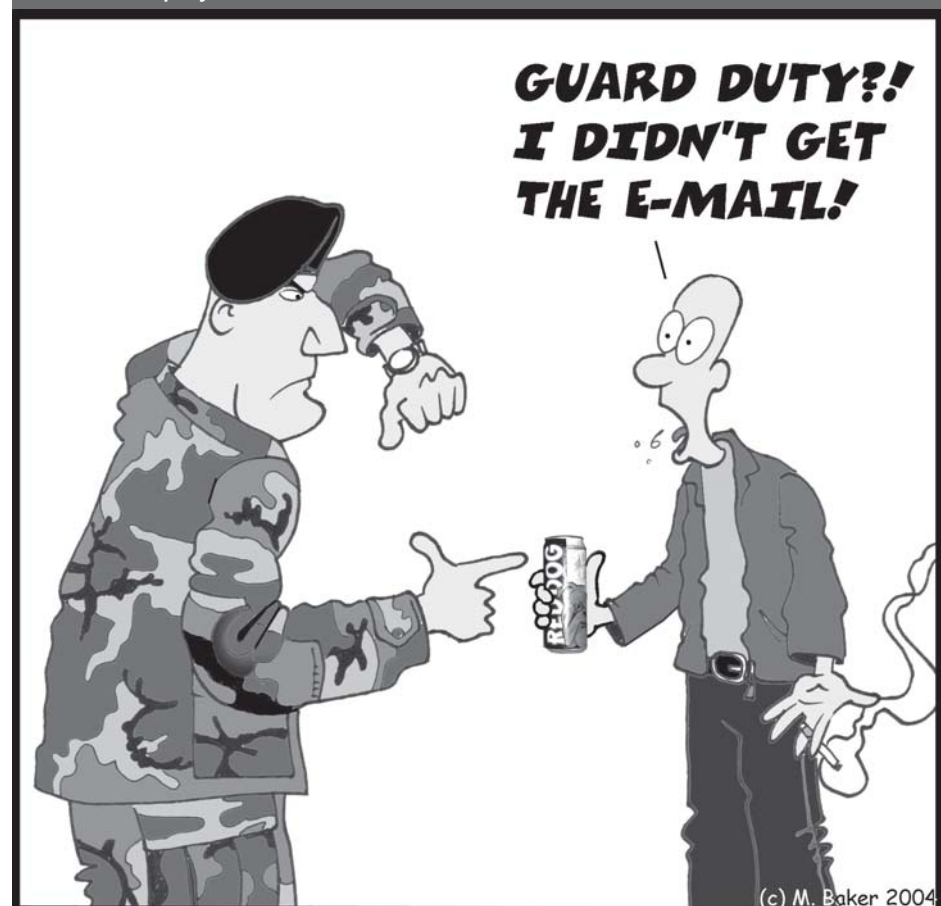
DiRita said the security picture in Iraq is mixed across the country - in some areas, it is relatively calm, and in others, insurgents are working to intimidate Iraqis and make life impossible. At the same time the attacks were being launched across Iraq, the new Iraqi stock exchange was opening, he said.

"In the midst of this violence, we have the continued progress of the economy," DiRita said.

U.S. and Coalition Forces will continue to do what needs to be done, DiRita said. U.S. service members will be commanded by U.S. officers and will not be subject to prosecution under Iraqi courts. Any legal proceedings against U.S. service members will be handled under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.



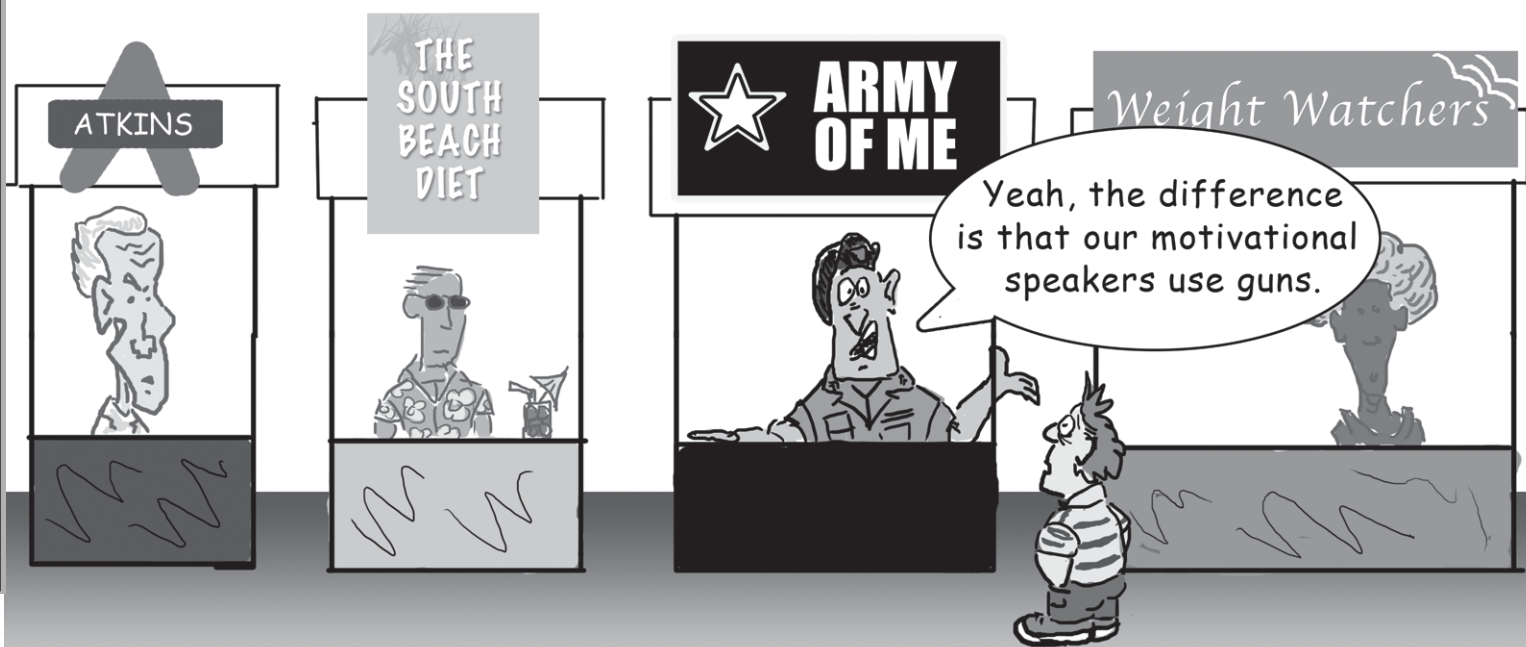
## Pvt. Murphy's Law



## WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAMS CONVENTION



by Aaron Thacker  
send e-mail to:  
aaron.thacker@armyofme.us





## Left Shoulder Diary South Carolina State Area Command

Compiled from  
Unit History

The South Carolina State Area Command shoulder sleeve insignia is characterized by a blue shield with a one-eighth of an inch white border. Its dimensions are two and seven-sixteenths inches in width and three inches in height. A palmetto tree on a mound and a crescent in the upper left corner, both white, are situated in the center of the shield.

The insignia was adapted from the crest of the South Carolina Army National Guard.

It was approved for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, South Carolina National Guard Mar. 19, 1952. It was re-designated Dec. 30, 1983, for Headquarters, State Area Command, South Carolina Army National Guard.

Under command of the Adjutant General of South Carolina, STARC develops and executes the plans, policies and programs for National Guard units of the state; provides for the operational deployment of active and reserve components assisting state authorities during the aftermath of a civil defense emergency; trains selected individuals for commissioned service in the National Guard and provides necessary command, control and supervision to accomplish its mission.

In addition, STARC has a Federal mission to be available and prepared as the first line of defense of the United States; to be prepared to serve whenever Congress or the President of the United States determines that more units are needed for national security than are in regular components of the ground and air forces; and to be prepared to serve on active duty as long as needed.

The state mission of STARC is to be available on order of the governor to assist local authorities in the event of a disaster, disturbance or other emergency; to plan and train for the employment of troops and equipment as the situation dictates; to support rescue and relief operations; to aid in recovery and assist civil authorities in maintaining law and order; to control civil disturbances and to protect life and property.

STARC started with the original colonists as they realized the need for a Colonial Militia, its Soldiers have fought in every war in which the United States has been involved.

During World War I, six Medals of Honor were awarded to the 118th Infantry of South Carolina's National Guard. During Desert Storm, Desert Shield and Operation Iraqi Freedom several South Carolina Army National Guard units were called to active duty, many serving in the Persian Gulf.

**K**enneth L. Romero, a Denver, Colo., native and American Red Cross station manager for Peterson Air Force Base, Schriever Air Force Base, North American Aerospace Defense Command and the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., is one-third of the new American Red Cross team on LSA Anaconda.

His primary responsibilities include providing emergency communications to service members and Department of Defense civilians plus helping families get in contact when there's been an

emergency back home, such as an illness or a death.

"Sometimes we deliver good news, too, like birth notifications," Romero said.

Since his arrival at LSA Anaconda June 15, he found that one of the difficult parts of being here was adjusting to wearing body armor and



**Kenneth L. Romero**

"The best part of my job is living and working side by side with the Soldiers. You definitely feel you're a bigger part of the community out here than back home," he said. "I can't really say I'm excited to be here, but I enjoy my work and get a lot of reward for my job."

his Kevlar everywhere.

"The hardest part of my job is being away from my family," he said.

His family is used to his frequent deployment, as mobility is a condition of employment with the American Red Cross.

"[My family] is definitely supportive. I was also deployed last year while my wife was pregnant. I was attached to the 3rd [Infantry Division] in Kuwait and at Camp Dogwood in Iraq," Romero said.

Short of missing his family and the home cooking, Romero finds his job rewarding.

### CHANGES, from page 1

"I don't think there would be any visible impact on the quality of life," Roll said. "The quality of life here is robust on [rest and relaxation] and other services that are provided to the Soldiers. Those that will be affected will be those that are traveling off [post]," said Roll.

For those Soldiers who frequently leave post, such as transportation companies and infantry units, there will be an increase in joint patrols between Coalition Forces and Iraqi National Guardsmen as they slowly take over the defensive role of their country.

The post will continue to act as a hub for both air and convoy travelers, only increasing its capacity to accommodate the needs of those traveling.

This means there are going to be a lot of transient types on LSA Anaconda. It is expected that most people passing through here will be on leave or traveling from one location to another using this as an intermediate stopping place.

As the Iraqi people gain experience in governing themselves in a democratic society, the U.S. Soldiers' responsibilities become a more supportive role of the country and its government.

### Education Center Shuttle

The CDC shuttle bus to the LSA Anaconda Education Center runs every 20 minutes.

Soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines can catch the bus at the post exchange bus stop.

The CDC shuttle operates  
7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Contact Maj. Kristi Hilton,  
education OIC at  
*Kristi.Hilton@us.army.mil* or call  
DNVT 529-8373 for more  
information.





# Iraqi wildlife breeds illness, injury

## Don't mess with them, they won't mess with you

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

Soldiers are equipped with the tools to stay healthy in an environment where animals pose a serious threat to troop readiness.

Permethrin treated uniforms, DEET, malaria pills and common sense prevent potentially serious injuries and illnesses caused by the native wildlife here.

Many people don't consider the native wildlife a threat, but when Soldiers do not exercise precautions around these creatures, severe illness or injury can result.

The threats range from microscopic bacteria, viruses and parasites to rabid mammals wandering around the area of operation.

"The most dangerous organisms in Iraq are food-borne and water-borne microbes," said Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan T. Trouern-Trend, a medical NCO with 118th Medical Battalion and former NCOIC of preventive medicine. "Prevention of illnesses related to these bacteria requires frequent hand washing, proper handling and preparation of food and avoidance of ingestion of non-potable water."

A large threat is stinging insects, such as bees and wasps. The danger is only escalated in individuals with known bee-sting allergies. Army-issued red allergy identification tags identify these

individuals.

Mosquitoes and sand flies, which transmit malaria, leishmaniasis and sand-fly fever, become an increased threat during the warmest months of the year between April and November.

"The threat of malaria is really high, and you could have it for 40 years. It hides out in your liver and can just show up at any time," said Maj. Michael Myslenski, a physician assistant with the 118th Medical Battalion.

According to the U.S. Army Center for Promotion and Preventive Medicine Entomological Sciences Program Web site at [chppm-www.apgea.army.mil](http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil), there are three forms of leishmaniasis. The cutaneous form appears on the skin as ulcers, which won't heal and can last for months or years if left untreated. The mucocutaneous form appears as lesions in the nose, mouth and throat which normally occur after or concurrently with the skin lesions. The most severe form of leishmaniasis, the visceral form, causes symptoms such as irregular fever, enlarged spleen and liver, anemia, reduction of white blood cells and increasing weakness and emaciation.

Soldiers in theater who contract leishmaniasis are immediately medically evacuated to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for treatment. Even after treatment, permanent disfigurement and scarring can result from infection.

Sand-fly fever, also known as phlebotomo fever, a viral disease that causes flu-like symptoms and

sometimes brain infection, can be severe but is rarely fatal.

"In addition to the threat of mosquito and sand fly bites, there are seven venomous snake species and four venomous scorpion species capable of causing life-threatening injuries in Iraq," Trouern-Trend said.

Six of the seven venomous snakes are classified as true vipers and produce venom that damages blood cells and tissues of their victims.

"There's a lot of disruption in our area and snakes don't like that, but they are around. It's generally a good idea to leave snakes alone. Don't try to catch it and keep it as your unit mascot," Trouern-Trend said.

LSA Anaconda also has a population of potentially rabid mammals roaming about from cats and dogs to jackals and bats.

According to the Official Rabies Web site at [www.rabies.com](http://www.rabies.com), bats have small teeth and are able to bite without leaving a noticeable mark.

Some people have even been bitten in their sleep and didn't even know it.

Playing with these animals and trying to catch them can lead to an uncomfortable series of intravenous injections for the treatment of rabies.

"Complacency with your weapon, complacency with your safety and complacency with your preventive medicine will get you hurt. Think of it as a preventive medicine force protection posture," Myslenski said.



Photo courtesy of Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center  
**The fat-tailed scorpion is distributed throughout Iraq and injects neurotoxic venom.**



Photo courtesy of the Center for Disease Control  
**An individual infected with cutaneous leishmaniasis shows one of his lesions.**



Photo courtesy of Armed Forces Pest Management Board  
**Sand flies are one-third the size of mosquitoes and transmit leishmaniasis and sand-fly fever.**



Photo courtesy of Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center  
**The black scorpion is found throughout Iraq and has neurotoxic venom and will inflict life-threatening injuries.**



Photo courtesy of Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center  
**The Levantine viper is found throughout Iraq.**



Photo courtesy of Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center  
**The desert black cobra is found throughout Iraq and has neurotoxic venom that hampers respiration and heart function in humans.**



Photo courtesy of Armed Forces Pest Management Board  
**This Soldier was bitten by a snake in Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The snake was not identified, but a desert-horned viper was caught in the area soon afterward.**



## Simple errors, safety precautions delay delivery of military mail to deployed troops

Something as simple as adding the name of the destination country to an address can delay the delivery of mail to service members overseas.

It is a problem that the military postal system encounters daily, said Capt. Faye Slater, Third Army and Coalition Forces Land Component Command chief of theater postal operations.

To alleviate this situation, Slater said help is needed from the family and friends of deployed service members. Senders stateside are actually slowing the delivery of the mail by not properly addressing letters and packages. The sender needs to know the name of the country and the name of the base camp where a service member is stationed are incompatible with regulated military addresses.

"The U.S. Postal Service system has automated sorting machines that read the address and determine whether a letter or package goes through military postal channels, regular USPS or international postal channels," Slater said.

By writing Kuwait or Iraq on a letter or package it is routed through civilian mail channels rather than military ones. When that happens, the mail can be delayed significantly.

This is attributable to the sorting machine's inability to discern whether or not the letter is intended to reach an Army or Fleet Post Office address.

A recent case of this common mistake occurred when Soldiers' mail was found in the post office in downtown Baghdad rather than being sent to where the Soldiers were deployed.

"They brought us 21 letter trays filled with mail dated between December and February," said Lt. Col. Edward Passineau, commander of the joint military mail terminal at Baghdad International Airport. "Based on the attached (tracking) tags, this mail never went through the military mail channels, but was sent directly from John F. Kennedy Airport and passed through either Kuwait or Jordan."

Additionally, there have been a number of reported cases of internationally channeled military mail being opened, searched through and/or tampered with -- a matter that could potentially be identified as a danger to both individual and unit security, said Slater.

Slater said it is important for loved ones who remain at home to understand the step-by-step procedures that shape the entire military mailing system and current updates on all developments made to the military postal service. Knowing the latest rules can help decrease the time needed to process the mail.

"I believe there's a lack of information and understanding of the military postal system," she said.

Slater hopes to develop awareness by presenting the general public with an idea of the measures and steps taken between the time a letter or parcel initially leaves a sender's hands and the time it is finally picked up by a recipient.

Particularly in a war zone, there may be instances when several critical measures must be taken into consideration.

"For example, the delivery may possibly be heading for a remote site that is not located near a main logistics hub, and it is not easily accessible," said Slater. "If that's the case, other issues may emerge, such as organizing a convoy and sustaining certain security procedures, and those issues may delay the anticipated time of the parcel's arrival."

Force protection on mail convoys is an ever-present issue, and conditions causing delays change daily, she said.

Prior to a letter or package even reaching such proximity to its final destination, it must undergo a series of transfers, starting from the mailbox or post office where it is first dropped off.

"From the local town post office, the mail is transferred to the state's general mail facility, in which the mail is consequently processed at one of USPS' international gateways," Slater said.

The facilities of the USPS not only handle international mail but also all of the international mail of the armed services.

"A small military contingent operates with USPS at these gateways to assist USPS in routing mail to overseas points," she said. "They are called Joint Military Postal Activities. JMPAs work to assure that USPS arranges, assembles and consolidates the letters and parcels to the correct locations, then dispatches correctly on commercial airlines. Both military personnel and USPS civilian employees work hard to get the mail to its proper destinations."

At this point, the mail is loaded onto the aircraft for delivery to the Southwest Asia area of operations. Those letters are sent on connecting flights that average less than 29 hours from takeoff to delivery at the first offload point in the Middle East.

"The U.S. Postal Service, reimbursed by the Department of Defense, contracted Kalitta Airlines to provide air delivery service to and from Southwest Asia," said Slater. "Currently, Kalitta does not fly into Baghdad, because the commercial airport is not yet fully operational and does not grant Kalitta the authority to fly in."

Instead, Kalitta flies to an alternate location, where it off-loads the cargo to a different air carrier that flies the deliveries into Iraq.

Delivery into Iraq used to be only through



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Brown

**U.S. mail is promptly picked up and shipped to its destination, in part by friendly postal workers at Camp Wolverine such as MA1 Fernando Mocerno, who is assigned to the Navy's Mobile Mail Company, based out of Tucson, Ariz.**

Baghdad, but now there is also direct service from the transfer point to three other locations in Iraq.

Once the shipments arrive at the main transportation hubs in Iraq, KBR drivers contracted in advance by the Army, are standing by to drive the mail to the receiving camp's main post office. The departures depend on local ground dangers, highway problems, and force protection for the convoys.

"At the camp, post office personnel take the mail and sort it by the different units that it supports," she said.

Slater said obstacles like mission delays or additional safety precautions might, at times, slow down the final deliveries. On the same token, those mission delays or additional safety precautions may save lives.

"This is not like the USPS in the United States, where you can go up to your lockbox and pick up your mail," she said. "This is a war zone. It's a totally different world."

*Army News Service*

## Marine, Hornet pilot missing after training exercise

A U.S. Marine Corps pilot and F/A-18 Hornet aircraft operating from USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) were reported missing June 27. The missing pilot has been identified as Capt. Franklin R. Hooks, II, 32, of Pasco, Fla.

Aircraft wreckage has been recovered about 60 miles south of the Azores in the eastern Atlantic Ocean. Harry S. Truman and its embarked aircraft have covered more than 200 square miles of water in



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy

**An F/A-18 Hornet assigned to the Marine Strike Fighter Squadron 115 aboard the USS *Harry S. Truman* takes off.**

search of the pilot. Search and rescue efforts are continuing.

The pilot was conducting a

routine training exercise when the incident occurred. The aircraft was reported missing at 12:30 a.m. Zulu June 27.

The plane is one of 11 aircraft assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 115 "Silver Eagles" operating from Harry S. Truman. The squadron is from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.,

The cause of the incident is under investigation.

*Navy News Service*

## Guadalupe rescues fishermen

The crew of the Military Sealift Command oiler USNS *Guadalupe* (T-AO 200) rescued 13 fishermen from a burning vessel in the Pacific Ocean June 22, about 900 miles north-east of Guam.

The fishermen, who had been adrift for five days with little food or water, were rescued from the M/V Hsin Chin Chanz, an about 65-foot Taiwanese-flagged vessel, and brought aboard *Guadalupe*, where two were treated for

burns.

"At about 9:30 p.m., I received a call from Third Officer Susan Brigitha saying she had detected a contact on the horizon 10 miles away, which appeared to be displaying a strange red light," said Capt. W.R. Helton, *Guadalupe*'s master.

What they initially thought to be a red light turned out to be red flares being fired as a distress signal.

*Navy News Service*

Coalition teamwork in Afghanistan saves young girl's life

At a small village in central Afghanistan recently, a joint team of American and Jordanian medical specialists conducting a medical Civil Affairs project were working their way through a long line of patients when a particularly dire case caught their attention.



Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Alan Bautista  
Navy Corpsmen and Air Force rescue parajumpers load seven-year-old Miraja, a young Afghani girl who had swallowed an opium poppy bulb, on to an aircraft at Forward Operating Base Ripley, Afghanistan.

Jordanian army Lt. Jan Mohammed was the first to notice the 7-year-old girl laying motionless in her father's arms with shallow breathing and her skin turning an alarming shade of blue.

"She was in very bad shape," said Mohammed. "She was almost unconscious."

Mohammed and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Gary Martin, of Lewiston, Maine, senior medical officer for MEU Service Support Group 22, the combat service support element of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), immediately rushed to the girl.

"She was lifeless," said Martin. "I didn't think she was going to make it. If she did make it, she'd be brain dead."

As the doctors began evaluating the girl, through a translator her father offered an explanation for her condition. Apparently, the girl, named Miraja, had wandered into an opium field near her home and ate a large poppy.

Martin and Mohammed began administering counter-narcotics to Miraja while the rest of the MEDCAP team closed up shop to focus attention on the young girl. Loading their supplies, personnel, and eventually Miraja and her father onto their vehicles, the Americans and Jordanians sped back to Forward Operating Base Ripley, the MEU's base of operations near the town of Tarin Kowt.

During the flight, Shock/Trauma platoon member Lt. Brian Allen continually monitored the girl's blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and oxygen saturation both by eye and by machine. Miraja's condition remained stable, and after an hour's flight, the aircraft arrived at Bagram where an Army ambulance whisked her away to the nearby 328th Army Field Hospital.

Once there, her condition was further stabilized and her journey toward wellness continued with stays at an Egyptian military hospital and at Army medical facilities at Kandahar Air Field. Eventually, Miraja and her father, who never left her side during her long ordeal, returned to their village after her recovery was complete.

"Anytime you have a positive influence on someone's health outcome it feels good," said Allen, "but having a positive influence on a child's health goes back to the father and nurse in me. We all helped give this girl a second chance at life."

Marine Corps News

Hollywood joins USS Abraham Lincoln to film 'Stealth'

USS Abraham Lincoln welcomed aboard more than 80 people from Columbia Pictures and Backbreaker Films, actors Josh Lucas, Jessica Biel, Jamie Foxx, Sam Shepard and director Rob Cohen for the filming of the major motion picture, "Stealth," in June.

Abe's flight deck hosted 12 squadrons for carrier qualifications and the film crew, along with a 53-foot-long futuristic stealth fighter named "Talon."

"Filming a major Hollywood movie during flight (operations) is a very tricky and different thing," said Cohen. "This is real life out here, and it's amazing that the Navy is allowing us to be here and bring our own aircraft on the ship."

Cohen also acknowledged the Navy for allowing the current movie to see the light of day.

"I'm very grateful to the Navy for this. The Navy passed every page of the script, so they feel good about it, and I feel good about what this film will say about the Navy."

In the film, Navy officials decide to use an unmanned version of the "Talon," but when one of the planes begins attacking friendly forces, Navy pilots are called in to save the planet from artificial intelligence. Although the plot may sound far-fetched to some, Cohen found out firsthand that filming aboard Lincoln is very real.

"I have a deeper appreciation for what (the crew) does on the Lincoln," Cohen said.

After spending his first night aboard the warship, Cohen had a startling experience that awoke him from a sound sleep.

"They primed the catapults about two in the

morning, and I thought, 'Oh my God, we've been torpedoed!' I jumped so high out of my bunk that I hit my head on the shelf," he said.

Adjusting to life on the 97,000-ton carrier also proved to be difficult for some of the cast.

"I've been lost every day," Biel said. "I still can't get to my room. I have to ask people all of the time just to help me find the bathroom, but it's been incredible how helpful everyone has been."

Biel, who plays Lt. Kara Wade, the only female pilot in the stealth squadron, also expressed her appreciation for the hard work of Abe's crew.

"You really have no idea how hard everybody works until you come on to a carrier," Biel said. "The teamwork on this ship is absolutely amazing."

Abe Sailors were given numerous opportunities throughout the week to be extras in the film and share the spotlight with the Hollywood lineup. Donning float coats and cranials, the sailors, producers and actors looked alike on the flight deck as the cameras rolled.

"In my 16 years in the Navy, this is one of the top things I've done," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW) Anthony Whetstone, of Abe's safety department.

Whetstone, an Alexander City, Ala., native, was an extra with a speaking role during one of the production's night scenes, and was grateful to have such an opportunity.

"Nothing like this has ever happened to me before," he said.

Navy News Service

NCO volunteer earns award

Her father picked up a soldier carrying his life in a duffel bag on his way home from Vietnam in 1971. He gave the man a little money and took him to his house to finish his journey home.

This act of kindness influenced Staff Sgt. Catharin Lammon and motivated her to do community service.

The American Legion recently announced that the sergeant, assigned to the 50th Operations Group, will receive the 2004 American Legion Spirit of Service Award for her contributions as a community volunteer.

"Sergeant Lammon's record of achievements and selfless contributions are impressive and make her highly deserving of this award," wrote Gregory Den Herder, the Air Force Personnel Center's executive director, in the letter to Gen. Lance Lord, commander of Air Force Space Command, recognizing Lammon for her accomplishments.

The American Legion Spirit of Service Award annually recognizes an outstanding performer from each branch of the armed forces for his or her volunteer off-duty service to the local community.

"I looked up to my father a lot growing up," Lammon said. "He was always volunteering or doing something in the community. If it wasn't Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, it was fixing a hot meal for the



Photo by Senior Airman Mike Meares  
Staff Sgt. Catharin Lammon of the 50th Operations Group has earned the 2004 American Legion Spirit of Service award for her continued role in the community as a volunteer.

elderly."

Lammon grew up knowing there were less fortunate people in life than she was.

"There is a passion inside of me that drives me to help others," Lammon said. "There is always a need. Even if only a dollar is given, it helps someone, somewhere."

She and her husband share this philosophy wherever they spend their time.

"My husband and I are blessed to be in the Air Force," she said. "My mother grew up in a bombed out apartment in Berlin during World War II. We are very appreciative of the life we have."

Lammon shows that appreciation in her continuous acts of service. Her charity work includes helping raise \$1.5 million for National Combined Federal Campaign and being named one the campaign's Military Heroes. She also serves meals at a soup kitchen, paints houses for elderly people, donates blood and sends care packages to troops in the Middle East.

"In the scheme of things, the time I spend helping out is small," she said. "It makes a huge difference in their life though."

Air Force News Service





Staff Sgt. Terence Canniff, of the Headquarters and Headquarters maintenance section, 660th Transportation Company, changes out an older tire on a five-ton to a fully functioning tire.



Mechanics use a trick of the trade. By heating up a bolt and allowing it to cool, the metal contracts for easier removal.

# Soldiers in garage keep ‘em running

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
*Staff writer*

Beyond the daily dangers that affect those living on LSA Anaconda are the dangers that affect those traversing Iraqi roads.

Dangers come from all sides for the men and women running the highways, but preventive maintenance can reduce the amount of stress put on Soldiers while on the road. The 660th Transportation Company's Maintenance platoon works diligently to ensure that their comrades do not wind up stranded on the roadside, placing them in even greater danger.

"If a gun truck doesn't run, we don't sleep till it's done. The gun truck is that important," said Spc. Christopher P. Brubaker.

The mechanics work long hours, from 6 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and in the evenings from 5 p.m. until the job gets done. It isn't uncommon for them to work well into the night.

"Some nights we don't have to work, but some nights we have to work all night long," said Brubaker.

Sometimes their work hours are dictated by returning convoys that are in need of service.

"We put in a lot of extra hours," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony L. Gardner, 660th

Maintenance platoon NCOIC. "Once the mission gets back, we go to work."

Their job involves replacing parts that routinely break down in this environment, such as tires, alternators, ball joints and batteries. The road conditions here have increased the workload of the company by breaking down other parts faster than they normally do in regular circumstances.

"The roads are so rough that they're ripping the brake chambers," Gardner said. "They are literally shaking them apart. [These vehicles] weren't meant for the conditions they're put through – long, cross-country trips on these roads in this heat and dust."

The dust is another aspect of the Iraqi desert causing new problems.

"When we get the new problems, that's the great part," said Sgt. Toby Milliken. "Then it's a challenge."

Another challenge faced by the company is the high turn around rate for the vehicles.

"There is no gap in time between one mission and the next. These guys, as soon as they get off one mission they're doing their after [preventive maintenance checks and services] at the same time they're doing their

before PMCS for the next mission," Gardner said.

The mechanics are forced to learn as they work when faced with a combination of new problems and the immediate need for vehicles.

"The learning curve here is real steep. You really have to learn on the fly," said Gardner. "You get an unfamiliar vehicle in here and sometimes you're downloading the [technical manual] that morning and using it 10 minutes later. Every day is a challenge here. You really have to teach yourself."

The on-the-fly learning and long hours have brought their fellow Soldiers back to the post safely on many occasions. Their diligent work aims at one goal.

"[It's important] so the guys don't get stuck out on the road in strange territory," Sgt. Shawn Olesky said.

Assuring that the vehicles are in condition to leave and return to LSA Anaconda is just one of the many aspects of what keeps Soldiers safe while deployed to Iraq. The proper maintenance, done efficiently and effectively, keeps those Soldiers on the road and not directly in harms way.



Cason uses a metal pipe to assist in tightening the bolts on a tire.



Staff Sgt. Adam Cason of the 660th Transportation Company muscled a wheel away from his vehicle while performing routine maintenance.



Spc. Kenneth Norton uses a torch to loosen a bolt while changing out the springs on a Humvee, one of the many tasks the maintenance mechanics perform in vehicle repair.



Movie Schedule

# Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Daily Shows: 3 p.m., 6 p.m., and 9 p.m.  
(schedule is subject to change)

July 4

3 p.m. Anaconda Star Search  
8 p.m. Stars and Stripes –  
Country Western Band

July 5

7 p.m. Stars and Stripes –  
Country Western Band

July 6

3 p.m. Dodgeball: A True  
Underdog Story  
6 p.m. The Terminal  
9 p.m. 13 Going on 30

July 7

3 p.m. 13 Going on 30  
6 p.m. Dodgeball: A True  
Underdog Story  
9 p.m. The Terminal

July 8

3 p.m. The Terminal  
6 p.m. 13 Going on 30  
9 p.m. Dodgeball: A True  
Underdog Story

July 9

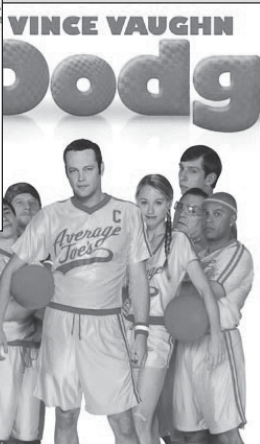
3 p.m. Mean Girls  
6 p.m. Van Helsing  
9 p.m. The Notebook

July 10

3 p.m. The Notebook  
6 p.m. New York Minute  
9 p.m. The Terminal



13 Going on 30



Dodgeball: A True  
Underdog Story

## Weekly Religious Schedule

Christian Orthodox

Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

Church of Christ

Sunday 11 a.m. 1/142nd Chapel Tent

Islamic Prayer

Friday 1:30 p.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent

Latter Day Saints

Sunday 10 a.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent  
Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Temple

Lutheran

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent  
Sunday 2 p.m. 185th Task Force Tent

Protestant-Contemporary

Sunday 7 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Tuskegee Temple

Protestant-Gospel

Sunday 11:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 7 p.m. Airborne Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Protestant-Praise and Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 9 a.m. Airborne Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 11 a.m. Airborne Chapel

Protestant-Traditional

Sunday 9:30 a.m. 31st Combat Support  
Hospital  
Sunday 11 a.m. Airborne Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Temple

Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday 7 p.m. Airborne Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 10 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday noon Tuskegee Temple  
Sunday noon 31st Combat Support Hospital  
Monday 9 a.m. PPI Dining Facility  
Monday 7 p.m. PPI Dining Facility

Jewish Prayer

Friday 6 p.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent

## Movie Synopsis for July 4 - July 10

13 Going on 30

PG-13, Romantic Comedy, 97 min  
Jennifer Garner, Judy Greer, Andy Serkis,  
Christa B. Allen, Sam Ball

Jenna Rink is a typical preteen girl who wants more than anything to grow up. On her 13th birthday, Jenna's only wish is to get older and fast. When she wakes up the next morning, she's 30 years old, a successful magazine editor with a live-in boyfriend! Jenna tracks down Matt (her best friend when she was younger) to try and figure out what has happened.

The Terminal

PG-13, Comedy, 128 min  
Tom Hanks, Catherine  
Zeta-Jones

An immigrant (Hanks) fleeing the war that ravages his tiny Eastern European homeland finds himself stuck in the terminal of one of New York City's airports.

Fortunately or unfortunately for him, the time of his landing coincides precisely with the point at which the war causes his nation of origin to no longer exist, meaning that his passport and paperwork are no longer valid.

As a man without a home, he takes up residence in the terminal itself, befriendng the staff of the airport, and falling in love with an airline flight attendant.

Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

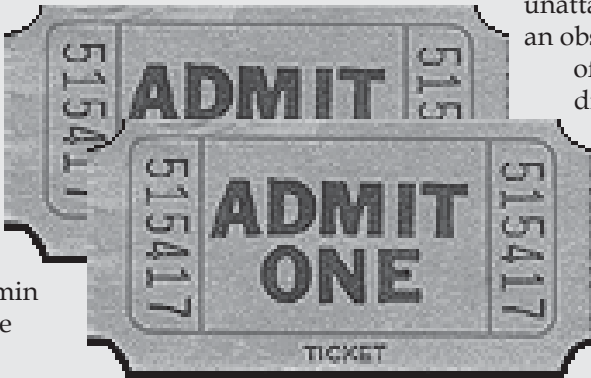
PG-13, Comedy, 97 min  
Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Christine Taylor,  
Jason Bateman, Rip Torn

Peter LaFleur is a charismatic under-achiever and proprietor of a rundown gym called Average Joe's. The facility's eclectic clientele of decidedly less-than-average Joes is comprised of: a self-styled pirate; a scrawny nerd who dreams of impressing an unattainable cheerleader; an obsessive aficionado of obscure sports; a dim-witted young man; and a cocky know-it-all who, of course, really knows nothing.

Peter's humble gym catches the eye of White Goodman, the power-mullet-sporting, Fu-Manchu-d, egomaniacal owner of Globo Gym, a gleaming monolith of fitness. White intends to take over Average Joe's, and Peter's non-existent bookkeeping is making it all too easy for him.

A foreclosing bank has stationed attorney Kate Veatch inside Average Joe's to finalize Globo's takeover of the gym. But Peter's boyish charms win her over and Kate joins his team of social rejects to beat the odds – and their own ineptitude – to try to save Average Joe's.

How? A showdown dodgeball competition against Globo Gym.





# Eight Anaconda troops reap \$51K bonus

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

Eight 29th Signal Battalion Soldiers took advantage of the benefits of reenlisting in combat, raised their right hands and recited the oath of enlistment in a ceremony at Sustainer Theater June 24.

Overall, they chose a number of options and reenlisted for many different reasons. Besides staying Army, the Soldiers accumulated a total of \$51,487 in reenlistment bonus money.

All but three of the Soldiers opted to stay with the 29th Sig. Bn.

"Families back home get to keep their homes, their jobs, and most of all, have predictability for the next few years knowing they will not be touched by the U.S. Army," said Sgt. 1st Class Tommy Carson, reenlistment and retention NCO with the battalion.

Sgt. Francisco Arriola of Company B opted for a current station stabilization reenlistment to remain at Fort Lewis, Wash., where the battalion is based.

"I get to buy a house and stay in one spot for while," Arriola said. "When my third daughter was born in December. I said no way am I going to get out. Healthcare costs too much."

Among the reenlistees were a group of four best friends, who decided upon arriving at LSA Anaconda that they would reenlist together. Arriola, Staff Sgt. Omero Morales, Staff Sgt. Robert Leon-Guerrero and Sgt. Gerald Reyes all plan to be career Soldiers.

"I knew I'd make this a career when I came in in '91," said Leon-Guerrero, a 12-year Army veteran with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, who took the indefinite reenlistment option. "I want to continue this as my career. I enjoy the Army. I enjoy what I do. It's an adventure every day. No two days are the same, and I'm following in my father's footsteps."

One of the eight Soldiers took the overseas assignment reenlistment option.

"I'm a career Soldier. This is what I've always



A group of 29th Signal Battalion Soldiers recite the oath of enlistment in front of a theater full of their leadership and peers June 24.

wanted to do," said Morales, who is also in HHC and will PCS to Europe upon redeployment.

The battalion made the day doubly special for Reyes of HHC.

"I decided a long time ago that I would reenlist. I just held off on it until the right time. The right time was today, my birthday," Reyes said.

The battalion surprised Reyes after the recitation of the oath when they broke into a 29th Sig. Bn. rendition of "Happy Birthday."

Spc. Robin Stewart of HHC opted for the CONUS station of choice reenlistment so that she could join her husband at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Spc. Joel Leuty and Sgt. Urbano Paet of Company A opted to remain at Fort Lewis.

These Soldiers were motivated to reenlist

because of their love of their jobs, their dedication to the U.S. Army and the first impression of their previous and current units.

"Soldiers are not numbers or statistics. They are volunteers that serve their country. They are America's sons and daughters who have earned the privilege of reenlistment through their demonstrated performance," said Carson. "Retention does not begin when a Soldier enters their reenlistment window. It begins the day they arrive in their unit. It's based on the way they are welcomed, made to feel they are an important part of something special and are given equal opportunity for education, promotions, training and awards. If leaders are actively and enthusiastically involved, then Soldiers will want to reenlist."

## Podiatrist treats, educates service members on foot care

By Spc. Kathryn Spurrell  
81st BCT

Podiatrists are unique and valuable assets in a combat zone, because they provide services not available anywhere else in theater.

Maj. David Schirle, a podiatrist with Company C, 181st Support Battalion of the 81st Brigade Combat Team, works out of the main Troop Medical Center as the 81st BCT Surgeon, as well as the only Army podiatrist in theater.

Prior to the deployment, Schirle owned a private practice in Seattle where he worked doing consultations and treatments, particularly for elderly patients. Schirle began practicing podiatry in 1987, after working for years as a medic and

physicians assistant both in and out of the military.

Schirle enlisted in the Army in 1970. "I haven't retired yet, because I told myself as long as I was having fun, I'd stay," he said.

He added that part of the fun comes from being able to contribute to the Army since it enabled him to become a medical professional.

"The military gave me a good education," he said. "I feel obliged to give as much back as I can."

Schirle has served the Army in many different capacities over the years, working as a medic in Mechanized Infantry, Special Forces, Artillery, Armor and Cavalry units.

He said the best part of his job is being able to provide quality care for soldiers who might otherwise be overlooked. According to Schirle,

podiatry problems can affect a soldier's entire outlook.

"When your feet hurt, you hurt all over. If the dogs are barking at you, you just feel lousy," he said.

Schirle said he enjoys providing a refuge for soldiers as he relieves their pain.

"I try to maintain a sense of humor and positive attitude as I help them get back on their feet," he said.

The most common problems Schirle treats are infections, corns, calluses and ingrown toenails. Schirle cites walking long distances on gravel and sand as part of the problem, but also said many people have foot structure problems of which they might not be aware.

Although swamped with soldiers needing help, Schirle believes there are many people who have not come

in because they believe they need to just deal with the pain. Schirle said most of his treatments involve pain relief, but he also casts patients for orthotic inserts that correct structural problems of the feet.

"Foot problems are not intuitive," he said. "There is not always an obvious link between foot pain and the cause of the pain."

Part of his job involves educating his patients about the benefits of using orthotics.

In addition to treating patients, Schirle devotes as much time as he can to training the younger, less experienced medics working with him. Medical professions require lots of hands-on experience, he said. He aims to help make medics aware of the difference between normal and abnormal conditions.





Photos by Pfc. Abel Trevino

A joint project between the 512th Engineer Battalion and 13th Corps Support Command Civil Affairs involves clearing 150 kilometers of weeds, cane and debris from several canals in the LSA Anaconda area in an attempt to promote agriculture and the economy for villages near the post.

# Canal cleaning brings water to locals

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

The 512th Engineer Battalion and 13th Corps Support Command Civil Affairs have jointly undertaken a project to clean up 150 kilometers of canals, clogged with weeds and cane, and provide water to improve irrigation for agriculture in the farmland surrounding LSA Anaconda.

Five hundred local villagers were hired to clear the canal. Each day of the project, the villagers clear five meters of the canal using hand tools.

This project is designed to improve water flow and irrigation for crops.

The idea for the project came from the recognized need to help improve irrigation and also a way to bolster the local economy by employing villagers, said Maj. Douglas Brunot, 512th EN Bn.

"[The Army] could have just hired a machine to do this. It could have been done quickly and less expensively, but the idea is to employ as

many people as possible and spread the money around," said Brunot.

The economy is reliant on agriculture, which in turn is reliant on water and the canal is a main supply of water for crops in the area, said Brunot.

In addition to improving water flow, the project also provides jobs for local villagers.

The canal clean-up may also indirectly help stop attacks on LSA Anaconda.

Anti-Iraqi Forces have been suspected of hiding supplies in the canals and there is a chance these could be recovered during the cleanup, Brunot said.

In addition to the potential discovery of weapons caches, the project engenders goodwill between the villagers and LSA Anaconda.

The work on the 150 kilometers of the canals will mostly be done by hand, but there will be a backhoe to actually dredge the canals for depth, while the 500 local-national employees clear the vegetation and debris away.



Two of the local nationals hired to clear the debris work on the steep banks of the canal to clear away cane, which impedes the irrigation of local crops.



Col. Nicholas Zoeller from the 13th COSCOM Civil Affairs section meets local villagers hired to clear out the canals.



# Deployed couple face challenges together

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

From the moment they met on kitchen patrol duty, Specialists Rosel and Jaqueline Rodriguez became fast friends and were inseparable.

"We are a team in whatever we do. It's never me, it's never her, we're a team," Rosel said.

After only five months they were married, the couple wed while stationed in Korea.

"Everybody else saw us getting married," Rosel said. "Even my chain of command saw it before I did. We were always together and everyone saw it but me."

Jacqueline went on emergency leave from July to October 2002 while her mom battled cancer.

"It's the one thing I wish my mom would have known," Jacqueline said. "I kept showing her the picture saying 'This is Russ, I really love him.'"

After Jacqueline returned from emergency leave, Rosel proposed to her.

Despite the hardships, their relationship blossomed and as a team, they are facing the challenge of being a married couple together in Iraq, away from their 8-month-old daughter. The Rodriguezes left their child with his parents.

"This is really hard," Jacqueline said. "We're missing a lot of her firsts."

Everyone involved realizes that missing out on the baby's first steps or first words are not the worst things that could happen.

"If something happens out here, we have to worry about our daughter not having both parents," Jacqueline said.

Rosel agreed and finished his wife's thought for her.

"Anybody can get hurt out here. Even if one of us gets hurt, I don't want to have to tell our daughter how brave her mother was or for my wife to tell her how brave her father was," Rosel said.

Although many people the couple has known frowned upon them placing themselves in a combat situation, they said the risks are worth the benefits.

"Some people call me a bad mother for leaving her so young," Jacqueline said. "There are so many things that we're going to be able to do for her [when we get back]."

With both of them deployed to LSA Anaconda, they are hoping to be able to better secure the future for their family financially, but the risks involved are great.

Since the morning they met on kitchen duty while deployed to Korea, they have supported each as a team. Now they are supporting each other on a deployment to Iraq, as a team.



Photos by Pfc. Abel Trevino  
**Spc. Jacqueline Rodriguez pinches her husband Rosel's cheek, both specialists with the 29th Signal Battalion from Fort Lewis, Wa. met while stationed together in Korea.**



**Spc. Jacqueline Rodriguez wishes her that her mom could see them and their child.**

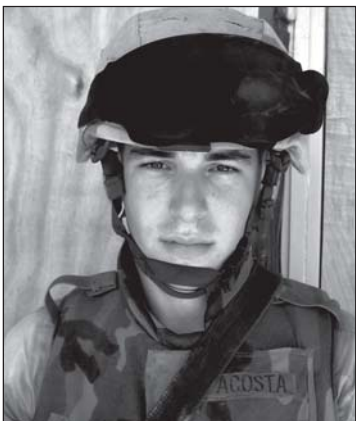
## Question of the Week

# How do you celebrate Independence Day?



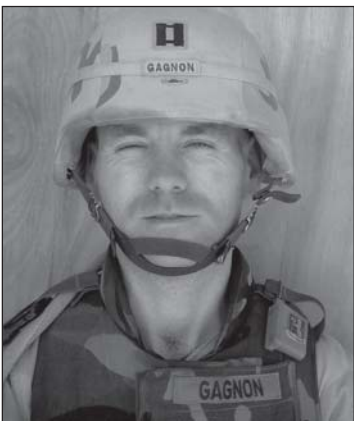
**Staff Sgt. Paul Deane Durham**  
230th Support Battalion

"[With] a lot of booms!"



**Spc. Edgar Acosta**  
105th Combat Engineer Battalion

"[In Charlotte] they have a parade and do stuff for the war veterans."



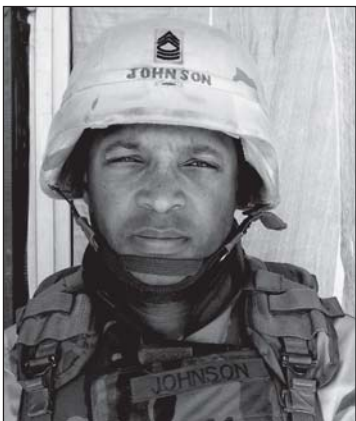
**Capt. Robert Gagnon**  
77th Armor

"We had a big parade, the kids rode in the tanks, and a [there was] fireworks show"



**Spc. Armando Acevedo**  
230th Support Battalion

"Fireworks. I'd usually go on post to watch them."



**Master Sgt. Eric Johnson**  
1st Infantry Division

"Basic fireworks stuff."



# Rules for using MWR fitness, sports facilities

The following guidelines will apply to all persons

- You must present appropriate identification upon entrance into the facility; no identification tags
- Absolutely no weapons are allowed into the facility
- No chewing of gum on the basketball court, in the aerobics room or on machines
- No tobacco products, no food and no beverages – except water – inside or outside of facility
- If you remove any equipment; you must put it back
- Use equipment for their intended purpose only
- Dispose of your water bottles and towels in the correct container before leaving
- Absolutely no profanity allowed in the facility
- No dunking allowed, except during tournament play
- You must wear appropriate clothing and shoes
- You must demonstrate sportmanship, integrity and cooperation
- Please assist in keeping the environment, equipment and fitness supplies clean and in good operation

## – RED ALERT –

1. You MUST EVACUATE the facility immediately.
2. You MUST SEEK shelter in the nearest hard building or bunker.
3. You CAN NOT RETURN to the facility until the ALL CLEAR has been given.

You may contact the MWR Department by leaving your name and e-mail address at the service desk. We appreciate your input and your cooperation.

## Aerobics Classes

Aerobics classes are held:

Monday at 6 p.m.  
Thursday at 6 p.m.  
Saturday at 6 a.m.  
in the aerobics tent behind the MWR Recreation Complex.



# Showtime at Anaconda 4th of July “Talent Show”

Sustainer Indoor Theater at 3 p.m.

Hosted by the Anaconda Armed Forces Council  
Starring BET Comic View comedian Terry T. Harris

Country artists  
Danni Leigh and  
Chalee Tennison will  
perform at the  
Sustainer Indoor  
Theater today at 8 p.m.  
and tomorrow at 7 p.m.

# Stars for Stripes



Chalee Tennison

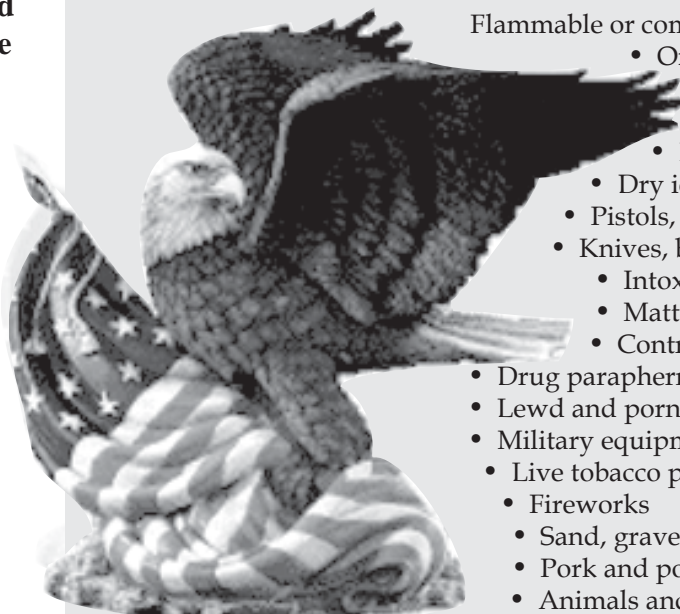


Danni Leigh

## U.S. Postal Service non-mailable items

Flammable or combustible liquids and solids to include cigarette lighters

- Oxidizing substances and organic pesticides
- Corrosives
- Radioactive material
- Magnetized material
- Dry ice
- Pistols, revolvers, weapon parts and other firearms
- Knives, bayonets and other sharp instruments
- Intoxication liquors
- Matter emitting obnoxious odors
- Controlled substances
- Drug paraphernalia
- Lewd and pornographic matter
- Military equipment and TA-50
- Live tobacco products
- Fireworks
- Sand, gravel, marble, plaster or other material from buildings
- Pork and pork products
- Animals and insects – dead or alive





# No killer ending for wildcard semi-final tourney

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

It was one last chance to make it to the regular season playoffs. Fifteen teams had earned all but one slot for the 16-team tournament bracket, and five teams were battling it in wildcard matches for the final space.

The 31st Combat Support Hospital and the 21st Replacement Company Replacement Killers went head-to-head for that chance in the semi-finals of the wildcard tournament held June 26.

The game ended with the 31st CSH team up 15-5 in the fifth inning, winning via the slaughter rule: if one team is up by 10 points in the fifth inning, the game is called a win.

"It feels good to have this opportunity," said Rene Salinas, left fielder for the 31st CSH, whose three home runs assisted his team in their victory. "We weren't that good throughout the season,

so to make it to the playoffs we had to step up our game," he said.

The 31st CSH team stepped up their game by increasing contact with the ball and getting the outs quicker.

"We really don't have a strategy," said 31st coach Richard Seals. "We just plan on hitting [the ball] and catching it more than them."

Seals' plan of just playing worked. After being down by 3 points in the first inning, his team gained the advantage and never gave it back.

Replacement Killers coach Robert Rivera was not distraught about his team's defeat.

"It gives us something to build on for next season," Rivera said.

Rivera was happy to get one last shot toward the regular season championship tournament.

"I'm glad we have this chance to play for the playoffs," he said. "It's a wildcard opportunity, but it will let us see how far we can go."

His team supported him.

"It feels good that we made it to this point," said Roderick Scott, Replacement Killer catcher. "When we first started the season, we weren't that good, but now we play a lot better as a team."

Scott was dedicated to his assisting his team, playing on little sleep after pulling a long shift only to return to another shift after the games end.

"We have a good team," he said. "Right now, we're just going out there and playing our game."

Although the Replacement Killers put out their game, it wasn't enough to compete with the 31st CSH's team.

"They played well. They played with a lot of heart," Seals said about his opponents.

Vincent Wilson, first basemen for the 31st CSH, said that there was no secret to their approach to the game.

"It's a lot of fun," said Wilson. "We just come out here to have fun. A bunch of us guys get together and have fun as a unit."

With the big victory in the semi-finals came a rough fight. Weary from the first game, the 31st would only have a 10-minute break before playing a doubleheader for the final slot. Seals said his team didn't have any apprehension about going back-to-back in the matches and would come out victorious.

His players reiterated his sentiments.

"I think we're pretty good," Salinas said. "I think we'll come out on top."

The championship game of the tournament is scheduled for July 4. For the 31st CSH team, this is the first battle for a chance to fight for the last slot.



Photos by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Chris Moore from the 21st Personnel Service Battalion softball team, the Replacement Killers, swings and misses the ball during the final inning of the semi-final wildcard game between the Replacement Killers and the 31st Combat Support Hospital team.



Robert Bland from the 31st CSH team rounds second base, bringing himself and one other player in on this play. The 31st CSH defeated the 21st Replacement Killers in a battle toward the finals in a wildcard tournament to determine who would take the final slot in the regular season tournament.

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# NATIVE AMERICAN SOARS HIGH

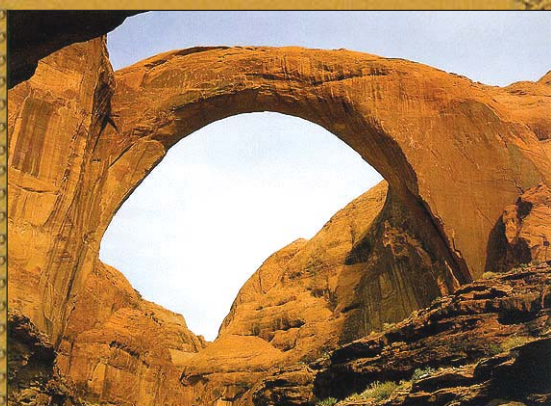


Photo by Harrison Lapahie Jr.

Rainbow Natural Bridge, also known as Rainbow Bridge, is a natural rock span of salmon-red Navajo sandstone arching over Bridge Canyon. It is about 12 miles northwest of Navajo Mountain (Naatsis'áán) in broken and deep canyon country of southern Utah.

By Capt. Morshe Araujo  
332nd AEW PAO

order to bring the elderly members of my tribe closer so that we can take care of them."

Within the communities, various programs are implemented to support the youth, like summer hire programs. There are also chapter meetings twice a month to allow members to get together to discuss and plan the future of their village. The chapter even helps provide feed for those who have cattle or sheep.

The one thing Beyale misses about living on the reservation is the traditional dances.

"So much is put into a dance, like the movements and even the style of outfits. The dances tell a story," he said.

Opportunities for members of his tribe to come together and dance are numerous, from powwows to ceremonial dances that can last as long as seven days.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Keith Brown

Staff Sgt. Tedd Beyale of the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group is a Navajo serving on LSA Anaconda.

"A particular ceremony used for traditional healing or a blessing way," said Beyale. "It starts off as a couple of days of prayers, singing and dancing. Toward the end of the ceremony there are three days of celebration."

It is through these ceremonies and events that the Navajo are able to keep in touch, not just with other members of their tribe, but also with their heritage.

The Navajo reservation is one of the largest Native American reservations in the country. It spreads across four states: Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. The population, which was cut to only 8,000 after the Long Walk in the 1860's, has grown to more than 210,000 strong. About 4 percent serve in the United States military.

During World War II, more than 300 Navajo radiomen, known as the Navajo



Code Talkers, provided the Marines a code that helped them win the battle of Iwo Jima. For Beyale, the story of the Navajo

Code Talkers was passed down through his family by his great-uncle who served as one of the famed communicators.

"He was part of a special unit of Native Americans that worked hard to narrow down our language to specific words," he said. "I'm glad they were finally honored for their service. Their contribution to the war is evident. It might have been minor but it made a big difference in what we do today, and it saved lives."

As the lead workgroup manager for the 332nd EMSG, Beyale keeps a pulse on the group's network systems. Along with staying focused on the job, Beyale also has a comical side that helps keep the morale up in his office.

"Staff Sgt. Beyale always has a way of making us laugh, even on the days we didn't want to do anything but sit in our little corners," said Staff Sgt Heather Hutton, 332nd EMSG Information Manager. "He is always quick with a joke."

Hutton said that the one thing she admires most about Beyale is his sense of duty and perseverance.

"Tedd will always work at a task or a problem until he has it completely figured out. No matter how frustrated he gets, he will never give up. That's something that I wish I had."

And it was through determination and great resolution that the Navajo Nation and other Native American tribes are still an integral part of our culture and our history. Beyale said he is proud of his heritage and the service that he's doing for his country during peacetime and wartime.

"I'm proud to be a Native American first, that's in my blood," he said. "And then after that, I'm proud to be an American."

Also a college graduate, Beyale is working on his masters in Business Management with an emphasis in Information Technology.

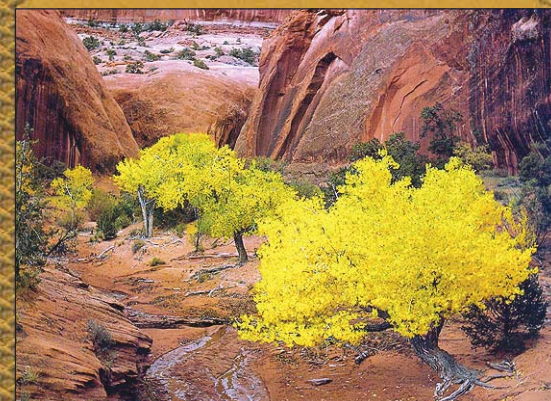


Photo by Harrison Lapahie Jr.

Ferguson Canyon is in the western foothills of Navajo Mountain, with cottonwood trees.